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Technology Center 2600

AMENDED CLAIMS

(AMENDED) The process for automatically adjusting a time period of a time slot in a communication channel, comprising the steps of:

determining whether data are being transmitted in a time slot in said communication channel;

adjusting said time slot to a first time period if data are not being transmitted in said time slot; and

adjusting said time slot to a second time period if data are being transmitted in said time slot.

2. (AMENDED) The process of claim 1, wherein said second time period is greater than said first time period.

4 (AMENDED) The process for automatically adjusting a time period of a time slot in a communication channel, comprising the steps of:

determining whether data are being transmitted in a time slot in said communication channel;

determining whether the data being transmitted comprises a particular data type;

adjusting said time slot to a first time period if data are not being transmitted in said time slot;

adjusting said time slot to a second time period if data are being transmitted in said time slot; and

B2 ~~adjusting said time slot to a third time period, if said data comprises a particular data type.~~

A2 Cont 5. (AMENDED) The process of claim 4, wherein said second time period is greater than said first time period.

A4 B3 12. (AMENDED) The system of claim 11 wherein said microprocessor adjusts the time slot to a first time period if the data are not transmitted, and adjusts the time slot to a second time period if data are being transmitted.

13. (AMENDED) The system of claim 12 wherein said second time period is greater than said first time period.

A5 15. (AMENDED) A system for communicating data among different units, comprising:

a data channel having a plurality of time slots for transmitting and receiving data;

B3 each unit comprising a microprocessor coupled to said data channel for monitoring and processing data;

said microprocessor adjusting a time period of one of said time slots depending on content of the time slot;

said microprocessor adjusting a time period of one of said time slots depending on content of the time slot;